

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 24 with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The process of using the cleaning apparatus 10 of the present invention to remove mucus accumulations 60 from the inside of endotracheal tubes 30 begins with inserting the distal end 80 of the cleaning apparatus 10 into the endotracheal tube 30. To accomplish this insertion, the endotracheal tube 30 can be disconnected from the ventilation apparatus (not shown) and the cleaning apparatus 10 can then be inserted into the disconnected proximal end 32 of the endotracheal tube 30 (see, FIG. 2). For effective cleaning, the cleaning apparatus 10 should be inserted into the endotracheal tube 30 far enough that the shaving rings 70 of the balloon 40 are approximately coincident with or slightly beyond the distal end 84 80 of the endotracheal tube. To achieve a desired alignment, measurement markers 82 may advantageously be formed on the outside of the central tube 12 (see, FIG. 1). Alternatively, x-ray detectable markers can be placed at the distal end 84 80 of the endotracheal tube and in the vicinity of the balloon 40 to assist in using x-rays scanners for proper alignment. One of these x-ray detectable markers could advantageously be a stainless steel anchor 56 which would serve the dual purpose of locating the balloon and acting as an x-ray detectable safety mechanism.

Please replace the "Abstract Of The Disclosure" with the following:

[0029] An endotracheal tube cleaning apparatus 10 which can be periodically inserted into the inside of an endotracheal tube 30 to shave away mucus deposits. In a preferred embodiment, this cleaning apparatus 10 comprises a flexible central tube 12 with an inflatable balloon 40 at its distal end. Affixed to the inflatable balloon are one or more shaving rings 70, each having a squared leading edge 72, to shave away mucus accumulations 60. In operation, the uninflated cleaning apparatus 10 is inserted into the endotracheal tube. The balloon 40 is then inflated by a suitable inflation device, such as a syringe 14, until the balloon's shaving rings are pressed

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against the inside surface of the endotracheal tube. The cleaning apparatus is then pulled out of the endotracheal tube to shave off mucus deposits.